

**AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY  
2016-2020 ACS 5-YEAR PUMS FILES**

***Variable Changes and Explanations***

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## **I. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT**

This document provides changes to the 2016-2020 Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) 5-year variables. In addition, a brief explanation of the change is also given. This document was previously part of the PUMS ReadMe document.

## **II. CHANGES TO PUMS VARIABLES FOR THE 2016-2020 PUMS 5-YEAR FILES**

The 5-year PUMS files include most of the variables that were included last year. There were some changes to the variables, which are noted below.

See the 2016-2020 5-year PUMS Data Dictionary for a complete listing of the variables and values contained in the 2016-2020 5-year PUMS data file. The PUMS Data Dictionaries may be found at: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/microdata/documentation.html>.

Data users may wish to reuse a program written using previous year's PUMS codes. The PUMS Data Dictionary for the current year and previous year(s) may be used to find changes to the values for a specific variable.

Note that most variables with minor cosmetic changes (such as removing a comma in a variable's label) are only listed in the "Variables with minor cosmetic changes to variable labels or value labels" below. They are not mentioned in the table.

**Variables added since previous 5-year PUMS:** None.

**Variables deleted since previous 5-year PUMS:** BUS, FBUSP, FTOILP, TOIL.

**Variables with name changes since previous 5-year PUMS:** ACCESSINET (formerly ACCESS), TYPEHUGQ (formerly TYPE).

**Variables with length changes and modified codes since the previous 5-year PUMS:** ELEP, GASP.

**Variables with new or modified codes since the previous 5-year PUMS:** ADJHSG, ADJINC, CITWP, MARHYP, SERIALNO, YBL, YOEP.

**Variables with code change since the previous 5-year PUMS:** TAXAMT.

**Variables with minor cosmetic changes to variable labels or value labels:** CPLT, FCONP, FELEP, FGASP, FWATP, JWTRNS, POVPIP, RAC2P, RAC3P, TEL.

## Detailed Changes by Variable (as compared to 2015-2019 ACS 5-year PUMS Data Dictionary)

Variable	Description of Change
	<i>Deleted Variable</i>
BUS	Discontinued in 2015
FBUSP	Allocation variable for BUS (Discontinued in 2015)
TOIL	Discontinued in 2015
FTOILP	Allocation variable for TOIL (Discontinued in 2015)
	<i>Variable with Name Change</i>
ACCESSINET	Previous Name: ACCESS
TYPEHUGQ	Previous Name: TYPE
	<i>Variables with Length Change and Modified Codes</i>
ELEP	Length changed from 3 to 4 and highest value increased to 9,999
GASP	Length changed from 3 to 4 and highest value increased to 9,999
	<i>Variables with Annual Code Updates</i>
ADJHSG	Annual update of Inflation Factor
ADJINC	Annual update of Inflation Factor
SERIALNO	SERIALNO for 2015 removed and 2020 added
YBL	Current year (2020) added
	<i>Variables with Annual Code Updates and Code Changes</i>
CITWP	1950 and 1951 collapsed into a single category and current year (2020) added
MARHYP	1942 and earlier years collapsed into a single category and current year (2020) added
YOEP	Early year of entry categories collapsed (“1934 or earlier (Bottom-coded)”, and “1939 – 1942”) and current year (2020) added
	<i>Variables with Code Changes</i>
TAXAMT	Highest upper category raised to \$57,500

In 2017, there was a need to collapse the categories of certain variables due to data disclosure requirements. In 2018, the variables for Industry and Occupation were also updated. The list of collapsed variables are:

- ANC1P
- ANC2P
- CITWP
- HHLANP
- INDP
- LANP
- MARHYP
- MIGSP
- NAICSP
- OCCP
- POBP
- RAC2P
- RAC3P
- SOCP
- YOEP

### III. EXPLANATION OF VARIABLE CHANGES

This section is for additional information on changes that occurred to the PUMS Variables.<sup>3</sup>

**A. Note on Name change for ACCESSINET and TYPEHUGQ**

The variable for Access to the Internet changed its name from “ACCESS” to “ACCESSINET”. Similarly, the variable for Type of Unit changed its name from “TYPE” to “TYPEHUGQ”. These changes were due to new requirements for the online MDA T tool (<https://data.census.gov/mdat/>).

**B. Note on the deletion of BUS, FBUSP, TOIL, and FTOILP**

In 2016, the variables BUS (Business or medical office on property) and TOIL (Flush toilet) discontinued. That is, they were not included on the ACS survey questionnaire. As 2015 was the last year with actual responses and it is no longer on the 5-year PUMS file, these variables were removed.

**C. Note on ELEM and GASP**

The highest values for the variables for Electricity cost (ELEM) and Gas cost (GASP) increased for data year 2020. The highest possible value for ELEM and GASP is now \$9,999. This necessitated the length of the variable to increase by 1.

**D. Note on Regular Updates for ADJHSG, ADJINC, SERIALNO, and YBL**

The adjustment factor for income and earnings dollar amounts (ADJINC) and adjustment factor for housing dollar amounts (ADJHSG) were updated for data year 2020.

SERIALNO was updated to reflect that the records come from 2016 through 2020 responses.

The variable YBL (When structure first built) had the year 2020 added as a category.

**E. Note on MARHYP and YOEP**

The category for 2020 was added to the variable for Year last married (MARHYP) and Year of entry (YOEP).

In addition, due to disclosure rules, MARHYP and YOEP collapsed early years.

MARHYP collapsed 1942 and earlier into a single category. YOEP collapsed 1934 and earlier into a single category and combined the years 1939-1942 into a single category.

**F. Note on TAXAMT**

Beginning in data year 2020, the highest value for Property taxes (TAXAMT) was increased from \$22,500 to \$57,500.